UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan DATE: April 17, 1964

FROM : D. J. Brennan, Jr.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION

The following information, which was volunteered to Agent Papich on 4/16/64 by James Angleton, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), on a strictly confidential basis, may be of interest to you in that it describes CIA's tactics in dealing with the Commission and the information also may shed some light on the thinking of Chief Justice Warren.

Several days ago, Mr. Stern of Rankin's staff advised CIA that the Commission was interested in obtaining a detailed picture of CIA's procedures relating to collection, indexing, and dissemination of information. As a result of this request, John McCone issued instructions that interested members of the Commission be invited to CIA for a thorough briefing. This took place on 4/16/64. Present were Chief Justice Warren, Senator Cooper, J. Lee Rankin, and Mr. Stern of Rankin's staff. The briefing lasted approximately four hours and McCone remained throughout.

CIA officials described CIA's current efforts to mechanize the processing of all its information. This was done in considerable detail and the visitors were taken on a tour where the equipment was demonstrated. Throughout CIA was endeavoring to leave the impression that all information is carefully and accurately recorded and filed. During the briefing Warren asked the question, "How can your system and facilities help the Secret Service?" He explained that the voluminous information was not going to be of any use to the Secret Service unless there was some satisfactory arrangement effected between Secret Service and CIA. The CIA officials responded that CIA only could help if Secret Service clearly spelled out exactly what they wanted. CIA took the position that it would be necessary for Secret Service to outline criteria of information of interest to Secret Service. Warren inquired if such criteria had ever been spelled out by Secret Service. CIA replied in the negative and explained that historically the Agency has been following a general policy of disseminating information relating to possible threats against the life of the President.

ENCLOSURE

Warren then took off on a fairly lengthy dissertation on the Secret Service. He stated that the Secret Service was a small organization with very limited resources and that unless changes

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1-Mr. Branigan; 1-Mr. Papich

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were made, it would be incapable of properly evaluating and handling information disseminated by other agencies. He pointed out that each year Secret Service fought a losing battle to obtain necessary funds; that its main responsibility was handling counterfeiting matters and that, at the same time, it had the highly important job of protecting the President. He commented that the Secret Service was not getting the support it needed, nor did it have the stature required when even the President could ignore the Service on matters dealing with security. He stated that President Kennedy on numerous occasions had ignored Secret Service warnings, and that President Johnson is already doing the same.

Warren then stated that if the President was to comply with strict security practices, it would be necessary to establish some authority which would be respected by a President. He stated that he was giving some thought to establishment of a "Policy Guidance Committee" consisting of the Secretaries of Treasury, State and Defense and including the Attorney General. As explained by him, this group would establish rules and policies dealing with the security of the President. His thought was that once this was established, the President would be obliged to comply because of the stature of the men on the Committee.

Warren repeatedly emphasized that there has been "too high a percentage of assassinations of Presidents" and that constructive action must be taken for the future. He said that his Commission must make recommendations but, at the same time, must be realistic. He commented that it would do no good to make recommendations which could not be implemented in a practical manner. In this same vein he repeated that unless the Secret Service could handle information furnished to that agency, nothing worthwhile could be accomplished.

dissemination of information to Secret Service

Angleton advised that all CIA officials received the following impressions: (1) Warren is not concentrating on fixing blame on any individual or agency in connection with the assassination. (2) He is very much concerned about the inadequacies of the present Secret Service structure. (3) He definitely will be making recommendations to reorganize the Secret Service.

Angleton stated that during the CIA briefing of the Agency's indexing procedures by use of machines, Warren asked several questions concerning accuracy. It was explained to him that it would take CIA at least another year and a half to properly mechanize its system. At this point [redacted] CIA briefer, pointed out that the Agency is still using a manually-operated indexing system and he then stated the FBI had "the most effective manually-operated indexing system in the world." [redacted] was trying to establish that a manually-operated system can be very effective if properly handled.

What is this?

ACTION:

For information.